

LEAGUE TO TAKE UP EXHAUSTIVE PROBE INTO DISARMAMENT

Will Proceed Prudently Because Russia and Germany Are Not Members.

PROPOSAL OF U.S. PRAISED AS A ROUTE TO SOLUTION

H. A. L. Fisher Says Any Agreement Here Would Conform With League Covenant.

PARIS, July 16.—The league of nations is going ahead with its work in connection with disarmament on the theory that it will in no wise interfere with the proposed conference on limitation of armaments in Washington and that it may develop information which would be of use to such a conference. That was the decision announced at the opening session today of the temporary mixed commission for the reduction of armaments, appointed by the league, which was presided over by Rene Viviani of France, chairman of the commission.

M. Viviani, H. A. L. Fisher, the British representative; Senator Carlo Schanzer of Italy and the delegates of the leading nations represented on the commission were in agreement in praise of President Harding's initiative in proposing a conference on armaments. They declared the league could not but welcome joyfully all deliberations having in view a solution of the delicate and complex general question which the league was studying objectively.

Will Proceed Prudently.

Brief exchanges of views this morning showed the delegates were impressed with the necessity of proceeding prudently with the question of easy stages, since it is impossible now to take into account the special situation of certain countries and the absence of Russia and Germany from the league. The commission will first make a general survey of the situation as set forth by data gathered by the league's consultative military and naval commission and appoint subcommittees to take up special branches of the subject.

The tendency in French circles to consider the league's disarmament commission useless, in view of the proposed Washington conference, was deprecated by the argument that the commission's work in no way prejudices what any other deliberative body may do, and the suggestion was made that M. Viviani's work on the commission would make him a likely representative of France in Washington in case Premier Briand should be unable to go.

France President's Initiative.

M. Viviani, in his address opening the session, after reviewing the history of the creation of the commission, said: "After indicating my conception of how we should fulfill our mission I feel no hesitation in commenting on the great and noble initiative taken by President Harding a few days ago. We have not been surprised that the head of the great American nation, so powerful and so generous, and which has so often discussed the question of disarmament, should have taken the lead in assembling the various governments for the purpose of reaching agreements. We should be the first to congratulate such action and we are happy to greet this step. We are glad to be associated in it, certain that the work we are going to prepare cannot but be taken into consideration by the governments when we ourselves shall be gathered next September, having before us some solutions of the problems. I do not say they will be definite, but they will be precise.

"I may add that the question of disarmament is so difficult, complex and delicate that those who discuss it must meet with preconceived notions, ignorance and difficulties with which we are confronted. We must overcome traditions and economic difficulties. There cannot be too many of us who wish to concern ourselves with this problem, to appeal to public opinion and to prepare the world for this question, that should be solved and definitely solved.

Would Conform to League.

"Such is the spirit in which we must work, for truly it would not have been worth while to have suffered the atrocious war if we could not draw fruitful lessons from the sacrifices of our sons."

Mr. Fisher, in an address approving Mr. Viviani's statement said: "If the Washington conference should, as must be hoped, reach an agreement, that agreement certainly will be in conformity with the twenty-one articles of the covenant of the league. This commission also should express great satisfaction with the action taken by President Harding, which, far from being in opposition to the general idea of the league, is, on the contrary, in full conformity with its spirit."

He suggested that naval disarmament might be considered separately from reduction of the land forces. He said he felt "the commission willing to welcome the hope expressed in Washington that a solution of the naval disarmament problem might be reached.

"As to land disarmament," Mr. (Continued on Page 11, Column 1.)

Qualified Japanese Reply Creates Bad London Impression

By Cable to The Star and New York World. Copyright, 1921.

LONDON, July 16.—While there is a diplomatic effort to gloss over the situation, Japan's qualified reply to President Harding's invitation to a Pacific conference, has created a bad impression here. Her attitude is interpreted as meaning that she claims to have a special standing in the Pacific that enables her to set limits to the power of a conference to deal with the Pacific problem as a whole.

The British empire, whose Pacific and far eastern interests are vast, has been accepted President Harding's invitation without any reservation, and it was expected her ally would have followed suit. One effect of Japan's action is that Canada's objections to the renewal of the Anglo-Japanese agreement seems to have been justified, even in quarters where it was not hitherto fully understood.

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Appeal for American Aid Reported Made Through Senator France There.

By the Associated Press.

RIGA, Latvia, July 16.—The Latvian government has made an appeal to all citizens of Russia to aid in alleviating the suffering caused by famine. The appeal, signed by all the members of the government, places the number of starving at not less than 10,000,000 in Astrakhan, Tsimbrysk, Saratov, Samara, Simbirsk, Ufa and Viatka provinces and along the Volga, in the Tartar Republic and the Chuvash territory. These, the appeal says, cannot exist until the next harvest without aid. The famine is characterized as a national calamity.

According to an American relief expert in Riga, the cost of completely relieving this number from outside of Russia would exceed \$40,000,000 monthly.

Chitcherina, the Russian soviet foreign minister denies that a direct appeal has been made for American aid to alleviate the widespread famine. Reports appearing in Baltic states newspapers were that an appeal had been made through Senator Joseph I. France of Maryland, who now is in Russia.

No Direct Appeal to U. S.

M. Chitcherina's message reads: "We have not appealed to America, except through the widespread radio appeals of Maxim Gorky and the Most Rev. Dr. Tikhon, patriarch of all Russia. We have no connection with the American government and, therefore, have no intention to appeal to the Americans for help, having in mind that we cannot ask for American relief representatives when we have no existing relations."

The newspaper reports of the alleged appeal to America said the United States had replied it could only consider giving help if a constitutional government should be established in Russia, and the reports mentioned Russia and the soviet premier, as favoring this.

"No one has proposed the forming of a constitutional government in Russia on the principle of a constituent assembly," M. Chitcherina asserts in his message. "This also is a ridiculous rumor."

13,500 CHOLERA CASES. More Than 11,000 Reported During June Alone.

By Cable to The Star and Chicago Daily News. Copyright, 1921.

RIGA, Latvia, July 16.—From information just given out by the commissar of public health it appears that there were 13,500 cases of cholera in Russia from January 1 to July 6 this year and more than 11,000 in June alone. The greatest number of cases were in the districts of Astrakhan, Saratov and Samara. There have been 156 cases in Moscow and five in Petrograd. It is difficult to fight the epidemic on account of the lack of medicine. Conditions are critical.

The proportions of the disaster have become clear in the last few days and the soviet newspapers are devoting articles to the situation.

REDS HOPE FOR U. S. JAPAN WAR TO USHER IN WORLD REVOLT

By Cable to The Star and Chicago Daily News. Copyright, 1921.

BERLIN, July 16.—The bolshevik government is now hoping for a new world war to help in staging the long-predicted world revolution. As an initial step toward the new world conflict the soviet officials are banking on a war between the United States and Japan. According to the Moscow Izvestia, official organ of the red government, the success of the plans for world revolution are now closely bound up with an American-Japanese conflict, which the newspaper regards as inevitable. It says:

"While assailing this new war and protesting against it, the proletariat will utilize it for purposes of its own emancipation, and we hope it will do this better than it did in the recent war. In the long run this coming war, which is being coolly prepared by the imperialists of both countries, will redound to the benefit of international socialism."

"If the recent war undermined the foundations of world imperialism and dealt it a severe blow, the coming war between America and Japan will definitely hurry it toward its grave."

\$12,000,000 ASKED IN SCHOOL BUDGET FOR COMING YEAR

Schedule to Be Given Commissioners Tomorrow With \$2,500,000 Building Plan.

TECH AND BUSINESS WIN FIGHT FOR MORE SPACE

Requests for New Homes Admitted. Additions to Armstrong and Western Included.

The public school budget for the next fiscal year, carrying a \$2,500,000 building program designed to relieve congested conditions in the high schools, and a substantial increase in pay for teachers and clerks in the school system, will be submitted to the Commissioners tomorrow by school authorities. The estimates in the budget, it is understood, total approximately \$12,000,000, about \$2,000,000 more than last year's.

Fishing touches were put on the budget last night by Supt. Ballou and other officials. The superintendent, after the budget is presented to the District heads tomorrow, will leave for his camp in Maine on an indefinite vacation.

The building program, it was learned, will provide for the needed addition to Western High School besides an athletic field for the institution; an addition to Armstrong Manual Training School, and sites for the proposed new Tech and Business high schools. It also will carry an appropriation of \$900,000 for the work on the new Eastern High School, now under construction.

Victory for Alumni.

Inserting of the provisions in the budget for the sites for the new buildings to Tech and Business high schools, scores a victory for the alumni associations of these institutions, which have waged a long and concerted campaign for larger quarters for their respective schools, both of which are seriously congested. School authorities, it is said, have not ultimately agreed on the location of the sites for the new structures. However, it is believed that the Patterson tract on Florida avenue north of Kendall Green will be the one selected for Business, while a site for Tech probably will be chosen in Bloomingdale or Petworth.

The Size of the Addition to Western and Armstrong, requested in the budget, was not disclosed. It was pointed out that they will be large enough to provide adequate accommodations for the present student bodies.

Most Serious Case.

Armstrong is the most seriously congested of the senior institutions, and school authorities are doubly anxious that the needs of this school be met. The school was erected in 1902 to accommodate 300 students. The enrollment at the close of school last month was about 650, five portable buildings used to accommodate the excess students. The registration at the beginning of the new term in September is expected to reach 700, and another portable will be pressed into use.

Authorities of Western and civic organizations in Georgetown have been engaged in a campaign for over a year in the interest of an addition to this school and an athletic field. The addition is badly needed, the school being so crowded last year that a two-shift system was put into operation to provide accommodations for the overflow.

Increase for Teachers.

The rate of increase for the teachers and clerks was not revealed. It is understood that the salary schedule in the budget provides a minimum basic pay of \$1,500 for the teachers in the graded schools, with a longevity increase annually of 10 per cent. The minimum basic pay for graded teachers is now \$1,200, plus the federal war-time bonus of \$240. The pay of the high school teachers also is raised proportionately, it is said. The minimum pay of the high school teacher now is \$1,650.

A number of desirable needs of the school system, it was indicated, have been left out of the budget, due to the fact that school authorities deem it advisable not to stagger Congress with an unusually large budget. Among them is the stadium for Dunbar High School, it was said.

Although the budget is larger than (Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)



AMERICA PAYS DEBT WHILE BRITISH OWE

U. S. Gives England \$32,688,352 for War Transportation Services.

LATTER'S DEBT BILLIONS

Mr. Daugherty Rules This Country Cannot Withhold Payment Under Old Act.

Despite Great Britain's debt of \$4,500,000,000 to this country, payment of \$32,688,352 has been made by the American government to the British ministry of shipping in settlement of a claim against the War Department, Treasury officials said yesterday.

The payment was made, officials added, pursuant to an opinion by Attorney General Daugherty. The British claim was for transportation services arising out of the war with Germany and the payment, it was explained, constituted a final settlement between the War Department and the British ministry of shipping of all claims of either party during the war.

Mr. Daugherty's Opinion.

Secretary Mellon asked Mr. Daugherty for a ruling as to whether the act of March 3, 1875, which requires the Secretary to withhold payment of any judgment against the United States where the claimant is indebted to this country in any manner, applied to such a claim.

Mr. Daugherty held the act did not apply, as it was not the practice of sovereign nations to prosecute their claims against one another in the courts and obtain judgment, but adjust such matters through diplomatic channels.

"If it should be construed to apply to a case such as is now presented," the Attorney General said, "then whenever a claim is allowed by the United States in favor of a foreign nation it will be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury in making payment to withhold the amount of any claim which the United States may have against such nation. As is well known, this government exercises a broad discretion in determining what claims it will present against other nations, and the operations of the statute in such matters would seriously interfere with the government in the conduct of its foreign relations."

The British transportation claim, it was explained, was for what was regarded during the war as current expenses. Among the allies, it was said, there was a general understanding that all current expenses would be paid one another without awaiting the settlement of international debts.

In conclusion with the claim Mr. Mellon also inquired whether \$12,275,711 should be withheld, pending adjustment of a claim of the Shipping Board against the ministry of shipping for shipments of oil. The Attorney General suggested that a step might be suggested to Great Britain through the usual diplomatic channels, but the Treasury decided, officials said, that the amount of the Shipping Board's bill was yet to be adjusted finally, and that the British transportation claim, therefore, should be paid in full.

WOMAN KILLED BY BOLT.

Lightning Strikes by Way of Chimney in Spotsylvania.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., July 16.—Mrs. W. F. Hedges, thirty-six years old, was killed by lightning at her home in Spotsylvania last night. The bolt came down the chimney and knocked her through the door and down the steps into the yard. Her husband and six young daughters survived.

SENATORS' OUTBURSTS ON BONUS EXPUNGED BY OWN CENSORSHIP

A blue-penciled Congressional Record appeared yesterday, with its account of the personal clash Friday in the Senate over recommitment of the soldiers' bonus bill heavily censored. Comparative peace and calm, in the Record as well as in the Capitol atmosphere, succeeded the storm which then raged within and without the chamber.

Expunged from official history were most of the tempestuous exchanges between Senators McCumber, republican, North Dakota, and Reed, democrat, Missouri. The Record was silent on Mr. McCumber's invitation to settle differences "outside." Also lost to history were Senator Reed's remarks about "blackguards," it being understood that the stenographer's ringside report had been blue-penciled by the principals themselves in the interest of Senate decorum.

LEVIATHAN'S FATE SOON TO BE KNOWN

Ship Board to Sell, Salvage or Recondition Giant Liner and Save \$45,000 Month.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, July 16.—The giant liner Leviathan, which has been idle at her pier in Hoboken for two years, costing the taxpayers \$45,000 a month for upkeep, will be ordered to be reconditioned, salvaged or sold within the next month. This was announced today by Chairman Lasker of the Shipping Board after he had spent several hours inspecting the former German liner Vaterland, which was seized during the war and converted into an American troopship.

If it is decided to refit the 54,000-ton steamer and put her on the seas again as a first-class passenger liner, the cost probably would be \$12,000,000, experts told Mr. Lasker. She would be converted into an oil burner and made ready for service by February, 1922. The cost of building and refitting a ship of the same size today would be in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000, it was estimated.

Steamer in Good Condition.

Mr. Lasker, who was accompanied on his trip of inspection by a number of Shipping Board and steamship officials, said the steamer was in good condition and moored in deep water. The machinery was in perfect order and, if necessary, she could put to sea in twenty-four hours.

Mr. Lasker said the expense of more than a half million dollars a year for a crew of 100 and upkeep was necessary to keep the liner in good condition. It costs \$100,000 annually for fifty-seven fire guards to patrol the ship every hour of the day and night. Sixty draughtsmen are employed making plans for refitting in order that time may be saved if it is decided to recondition the steamer.

P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Merchant Marine, who was a member of the inspecting party, said his corporation had an agreement with the Shipping Board to operate the Leviathan for five years, if the government decided upon reconditioning her.

Will Fly U. S. Flag.

Asked if this meant that the steamer would fly the British flag, Mr. Franklin said: "It most emphatically does not. It means she will be under the American flag and the nucleus of a fast American mail service."

Mr. Lasker, when asked if the Shipping Board had a complete title to the vessel, said: "While we have not yet settled with Germany for her, I believe that is a matter easily overcome."

DOZEN PLANS LIVE CAR FARE HEARINGS

Sessions End and Decision Is Not Expected Much Before August 1.

CITIZENS OFFER VIEWS

Utilities Commission Faces Puzzle of Giving Both Companies Fair Profit With Equal Rate.

The Public Utilities Commission probably will not be able to render a decision on street car rates much before August 1, judging from the volume of work facing the city heads during the next ten days.

Hearings on the street car situation were brought to a close yesterday afternoon, when a score of citizens representing various organizations laid their views before the commission.

Neither the Washington Railway and Electric Company nor the Capital Traction Company made any closing appeal to the commission. Both companies rested the case on the evidence they had submitted.

A dozen different solutions to the street car problem were suggested, however, by the individuals and representatives of organizations who spoke.

Problem Is Difficult.

The problem before the commission is admittedly one of the most difficult any public utilities commission has faced. The evidence showed that during the twelve months ended May 31 the Washington Railway and Electric Company earned only 5.53 per cent on its valuation, which is less than the 6 per cent return regarded as reasonable by the commission.

On the other hand, the testimony disclosed that the Capital Traction Company, for the twelve months ended April 30 earned a return of 10.69 per cent on its valuation, which is more than the amount regarded as reasonable.

The puzzle for the commission to solve is how to give the Washington Railway and Electric a rate that will yield it 6 per cent as for valuation and at the same time bring the Capital Traction fare down to a rate that will give that road a fair return.

Urges Zone System.

The W. R. and E. contends that a zone system would solve the problem.

Commissioner Oyster believes the fairest solution is to reduce the car fare to 7 cents or possibly four tokens for 25 cents and make up the loss which this would entail to the W. R. and E. by restoring the 10-cent rate for electricity.

In his closing argument for the Federation of Citizens' Associations, William McK. Clayton told the commission it cannot avoid reducing the fare on the lines of the Capital Traction Company to four tokens for 25 cents.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

Thief Makes Easy Haul From Policewomen As Eyes Are Full of Hair

Miss Adelaide Makena and Miss Dorothy James, policewomen of the women's bureau, metropolitan police department, were on the rear porch of their home, at 2105 21st street, yesterday afternoon engaged in the domestic art of shampooing their hair. A break thief entered the front door of their apartment, walked into the rooms and began rummaging the bureau drawers.

An occupant of another apartment, Mrs. Mary Duken, saw the thief emerge from the apartment and asked him what he was doing there. He said he was hunting for the janitor, and left immediately for parts unknown. He took with him a ring valued at \$75, the property of Miss James, and \$2 belonging to Miss Makena.

ASKS TO CONTINUE ELECTRICITY RATE

P. E. P. Co. Files Petition for 8 1-2-Cent Rate, Though 10-Cent Rate Still Exists.

OYSTER PLAN TO COME UP

Higher Kilowatt Cost and Lower Carfare to Be Discussed at Hearing.

Continuation of the present rate of 8 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity after September 1 is asked by the Potomac Electric Power Company in a petition filed with the Public Utilities Commission yesterday afternoon.

The commission had previously announced that it would hold a public hearing on electric light rates in the boardroom of the District building at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Commissioner Oyster's plan to solve the street railway situation by restoring the electric light rate to 10 cents per kilowatt hour and reducing the street car fare to 7 cents, or possibly lower, probably will be the outstanding feature of the electric light hearing tomorrow.

The users of current have never stopped paying 10 cents per kilowatt hour, but the company is required to set aside 1 1/2 cents pending settlement of its valuation by the courts. The only effect of carrying out the Oyster plan would be to allow the company to keep the full 10 cents the public now pays and at the same time reduce the carfare.

Ham Approves Oyster Plan.

Although the power company does not ask in its petition for the Oyster plan, President Ham has made it known that he regards it as a feasible solution to the street railway problem and probably will so testify if the opportunity presents itself tomorrow.

In the petition for continuation of existing electric rates, the power company states that operating conditions have not materially changed. With the exception of unskilled labor, other wages remain unchanged, and the company states that it does not anticipate an early reduction in the pay schedule.

"While there has been some change in prices of materials in the case of a few commodities, such reductions have not been sufficient in amount or extent to reduce materially operating expenses," the petition states.

Small Saving in Coal.

"Although the petitioner has been able to effect a small saving in the item of coal in the present contract price for delivery at the Benning plant, as compared with the average price of the preceding year, the total reduction in operating costs therefrom amounts only to approximately \$38,000, or a reduction in the cost of production of one-fortieth of 1 per cent per kilowatt hour generated."

The company presented a financial statement showing that for the year ended May 31, 1921, it earned 7.54 per cent on the fair value of its property. The company emphasizes the necessity for continuing also the present whole sale rate at which current is sold to large business and industrial establishments under schedule E.

In conclusion, the company expresses the belief that with the exception of street and park lighting, all other classes of users bear their proper proportion of the item of coal and other operating costs. The present schedule of rates, the company contends, is fair and reasonable.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

ECONOMY ORDERED BY DISTRICT HEADS AS NEW ERA OPENS

Highest Efficiency Demanded as Basis for Business Administration.

COMMISSIONERS CONFER WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS

Deficiencies to Be Pruned and Requisitions Watched, According to Announced Policy.

A new era of efficiency and economy in the running of the District government was ushered in yesterday when the Commissioners called before them all heads of departments for a "plain talk" on municipal affairs.

Three subjects were discussed by the Commissioners: First, the question of deficiencies in appropriations; second, the possibility of effecting savings in the appropriations for the fiscal year just beginning, and, third, the survey of the District building now being made by the United States bureau of efficiency.

Speaking of deficiencies, Commissioner Rudolph served notice on the department heads that if an avoidable deficiency occurs in the appropriation of any department it will be regarded as a serious reflection upon the administrative ability of the head of that department.

Unavoidable Deficiencies.

"The Commissioners realized," said Mr. Rudolph, "that there are certain deficiencies which cannot be avoided, those which may be termed legally justifiable deficiencies, and which the Commissioners and heads of departments are powerless to control. And it is but reasonable to believe that deficiencies of this nature will probably continue to occur from year to year."

"But for the artificial or preventable deficiency there can be no excuse, and the Commissioners avail themselves of this opportunity to say that a deficiency of this kind will not be tolerated in any District appropriation. To say the least, when a head of department permits an avoidable deficiency to occur in an appropriation for his service, it very seriously reflects on his administrative capacity and efficiency."

Department Heads Warned.

The Commissioner warned the department chiefs to see to it that economy is brought about by not employing persons whose services are not absolutely required, and by not purchasing unnecessary supplies.

On the second subject, that of saving on appropriations already made, Commissioner Rudolph said the Commissioners intend to join in and support the movement now under way in the federal government to economize in every way possible.

Commissioner Rudolph revealed the fact that several days ago the budget office for the District government called upon all department heads for information as to how much of their current appropriations could be saved and allowed to revert to the Treasury.

His report shows that out of total appropriations of \$18,546,963 for the ensuing fiscal year, only \$104,453.32 is said to be not necessary, and may revert to the Treasury. Of that amount \$60,000 was reported by Maj. Brown under certain appropriations for school buildings. The Commissioners have not had time to study carefully the reports of the heads of departments, and, therefore, are not prepared to say that \$104,000 is all that can be saved in the District service this year.

Will Watch Requisitions.

Commissioner Rudolph made a special appeal to Auditor Donovan and to the purchasing officer to scrutinize every requisition with the greatest care and to refuse to pass any requisition for whatever purpose that may appear to be non-essential, or excessive in amount. In such instances, however, the department head turned down shall have the right to submit the matter to the Commissioners for review.

Commissioner Rudolph directed all department heads to co-operate to the fullest extent with the experts of the bureau of efficiency who are about to begin a survey of the District government.

The first aim of the survey will be to establish grades of positions, appraise the value of each job in terms of salary and allocate each position to the several grades decided upon. Mr. Rudolph said the Commissioners also have asked the bureau of efficiency to include in its report any recommendations which they believe would improve the public service of the District government.

The bureau of efficiency also will report to the Commissioners what offices have too many employees and what offices should have more help. If such a situation is found to exist the Commissioners will consider the transfer of employees where they are most needed.

Business Administration.

In closing his remarks Mr. Rudolph said:

"I desire to say that the board of Commissioners intends to give the people of the District of Columbia as good a business administration of the municipal government as lies in their power to do. To accomplish this we must have the utmost efficiency on the part of every official and employee of the District government."

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)